

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 18-22 are pending. Although it was not mentioned in the Office Action, claim 9 recited a psychiatric disorder or a celiac disease linked disorder. Thus, Applicants submit that Group V should consider both alternatives. Support for the amendment of claims 9 and 11 is found, inter alia, at pages 15-16 of the specification.

Applicants elect Group V (claims 9, 11-12 and 18 as amended instead of psychiatric disorders) with traverse for examination of the invention directed to such treatment or prevention using a proline specific endoprotease. Claims 9, 11-12 and 18 read on the elected invention. Although not included in the species elections on pages 4-5 of the Action, “celiac disease, a disease associated with the occurrence of celiac disease, or a disease caused by a decreased level of proline specific proteases in a patient’s body” is elected as the species for examination. Claims 9, 11-12 and 18 read on the elected species. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in a further patent application.

Notwithstanding the above election, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested because examination of all pending claims would not constitute a serious burden. Although the inventions identified by the Examiner are separately patentable, both the need for compact prosecution and the public interest would be served by examination of all claims in a single application. In particular, claims 8, 14 and 20 include the elected invention and species within their scope. Thus, they should be examined.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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